GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1265
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005
MAKING AVAILABLE DRUGS AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Government is considering to make available affordable drugs and modern technology to rural population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government proposes to take any steps to help in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), under -5 Mortality Rate (MR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR);

(d) whether the Government has devised any measures to promote public investment in Health Sector ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Health and family welfare services in the rural areas are being provided through a network of Sub-centres; Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. In order to provide quality care in these centers, Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) are being prescribed to provide optimal care to the community and achieve and maintain an acceptable standard of quality care. Medicines are generally provided free of cost under the various National Health Programmes, which are under implementation for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. In order to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices, the Government has been promulgating the Drugs (Prices Control) Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, from time to lime.

(c) The Government has launched a National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which aims to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable health care, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of population.The Mission provides an overarching umbrella to the existing programmes of Health & Family Welfare with (RCH-II being the flagship program. The Mission aims to bring down the Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio and control all communicable diseases. Under the strategy of NRHM, the gaps in the existing scenario of rural health care is to be addressed through 2.5 lakhs Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) to assist the Anganwadi Worker and ANM at village level to make the increased health services accessible to the rural people of the country. It is also proposed to upgrade 2000+CHCs to the level of Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) and creation of District Level Management Teams of Health for all districts. NRHM has been launched for a penod of 7 years (2005-2012).

(d) & (e) Under the mandate of National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Government, Health care is one of the 7 Thrust Areas, wherein it is proposed to increase the expenditure in health sector from 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next five years.